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PAGE 01 PARIS 06381 01 OF 02 031121Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /106 W

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R 031112Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8405

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0029

USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06381

E.O. 16652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EEC EAGR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WALKER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOF
OFFICIALS.

REFS: STATE 048126, 048239, 048241

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR WALKER USED THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO PARIS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BARRE (MARCH 2) CONCERNING NFDM, THE EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL ON TOBACCO, AND EC GRAIN PRICES AS PER REFTELS. SAME POINTS WERE MADE WITH JEAN RENE BERNARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION QUESTIONS. BERNARD PROMISED TO TELEPHONE U.S. VIEWS IMMEDIATELY TO AG MINISTER BONNET ATTENDING EC COUNCIL AT BRUSSELS. AMBASSADOR WALKER ALSO DISCUSSED WITH BOTH OFFICIALS CURRENT MTN WORK PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 06381 01 OF 02 031121Z

2. AT MEETING WITH BARRE, THE MINISTER SAID HE TOOK

NOTE OF THE THREE POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR WALKER. ON HIS PART BARRE MENTIONED GOF CONCERN RE COGNAC (AMBASSADOR WALKER SAID WE WERE AWAITING EC ACTION ON POULTRY) AND POSSIBILITY OF NEW U.S. PROTECTIONIST MEASURES, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTED LIBERAL TRADE POLICY. HE WONDERED ABOUT AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL BODIES TO UNDERMINE THIS POLICY AND IN THIS CONTEXT MENTIONED MICHELIN TIRE CASE IN NORTH CAROLINA. AMBASSADOR WALKER EXPLAINED NON-DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF LOCAL TAXES IN THAT CASE. BARRE ALSO MENTIONED CONCORDE AND HOPED COLEMAN DECISION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. HE UNDERSTOOD OPPOSITION WAS NOT PROTECTIONIST BUT SAID "EVERYTHING IS LINKED" AND THOUGHT WE SHOULD AVOID PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCKS WHICH COULD HAVE EFFECT OF IMPAIRING NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER AREAS. RESPONDING TO THE AMBASSADOR'S INQUIRY, BARRE SAID THE PATRONAT AND OTHERS HAD SUFFERED SHOCKS OVER PAST TWO YEARS DUE TO WIDE FLUCTUATION IN DOLLAR AND TO WHAT THEY FELT WAS NEGLECT OF EXCHANGE RATE QUESTIONS BY U.S. AUTHORITIES. BARRE SAID SITUATION HAD CHANGED AND COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON FED INTERVENTION DURING RECENT CRISIS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: BARRE'S STATEMENTS WERE IN MARKED CONTRAST WITH HIS ATTITUDE DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DENT, BUT BARRE OBVIOUSLY FEELS RAMBOUILLET-JAMAICA ACCORDS ARE WORKING.) BARRE SAID GOF PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION OF ALL ASPECTS OF TRADE IN MTN (LEAVING ASIDE FOR MOMENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE) INCLUDING STANDARDS AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. BARRE WAS CONFIDENT WE COULD MEET THE SELF-APPOINTED GOAL OF COMPLETING MTN BY THE END OF 1977.

3. BERNARD SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN POINTS AMBASSADOR WALKER MADE ON NFD, TOBACCO, AND GRAIN PRICES. HE ASKED MANY QUESTIONS, EXPLAINED GOF

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06381 02 OF 02 031124Z

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STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /106 W

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 06381

PROBLEMS, UNDERSTOOD OUR POINTS, BUT HELD OUT LITTLE PROSPECT FOR ANY CHANGE AT BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO BERNARD GOF DOES NOT NEED LARGE INCREASES IN GRAIN PRICES BUT WILL GO ALONG TO GET AGREEMENT HIGHER DAIRY PRICES. GOF HAD ARGUED WITHIN EC ALONG SAME LINES AS OUR VIEW ON TOBACCO CASE BUT HAD LOST ARGUMENT DUE TO PRESSURE TO DO SOMETHING FOR LDCS IN HOPE AMELIORATING OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL. BERNARD SAW NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO CURRENT EC PLANS FOR DISPOSAL OF NFD. BERNARD SAID HE WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO AG MIN BONNET IN BRUSSELS REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY AMBASSADOR WALKER. MORE DETAILED MEMCONS ON MEETINGS WITH BARRE AND BERNARD WILL BE POUCHED.

4. EFFORTS TO REACH KEY MIN AG OFFICIALS ON MORNING MARCH 1 TO MAKE POINTS RAISED REFTELS UNAVAILING, AS ALL HAD LEFT FOR BRUSSELS. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 06381 02 OF 02 031124Z

THAT THEY WERE AND ARE FULLY AWARE OF U.S. POSITIONS ON NFD, EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS ON TOBACCO, AND EC GRAIN PRICES, AND OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG TAKES THOSE POSITIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROTECTIONISM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS06381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760080-1167
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760399/aaaadjpj.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 48126
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR WALKER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOF OFFICIALS.
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EPAP, US, FR, EEC, (WALKER, WILLIAM N), (BARRE, RAYMOND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006